

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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FRY SLAMS DANIELS FOR "CAR BOMBING" REMARKS

INDIANAPOLIS – By comparing state lawmakers who are simply voicing their concerns about legislation that would have a devastating impact on the rights of Hoosiers to terrorists, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels insults the honor of those men and women who have lost their lives in Iraq, according to State Rep. Craig Fry (D-Mishawaka).

"To date, 33 soldiers from Indiana have lost their lives in the fight to bring democracy to the people of Iraq," Fry said. "They are the unfortunate victims of terrorists overseas, and it is offensive to see our governor compare their tragedies to the actions of lawmakers who are simply exercising their rights to represent their constituents."

Fry said it was unprecedented for any governor to engage in this level of personal attacks on legislators, but noted that Daniels' actions are all too typical of a politician who made many promises on the campaign trail, only to break them immediately upon taking office.

"The governor has proven to be a divider, not a uniter," Fry said. "He says he will help state workers, then takes away their rights to bargaining for salaries and other benefits. He says he will balance the state budget without tax increases, then endorses a plan that will raise income and property taxes, and cut funding for schools and universities.

"Obviously, Gov. Daniels cannot be trusted to tell the truth, but this latest diatribe reaches a new low," he continued. "Anyone who questions any part of the governor's agenda is held in such disdain that he is willing to label that person a terrorist."

Daniels' attacks came after Fry and other House Democrats raised objections to proposals that would allow the governor to appoint his own "super prosecutor."

Fry asked, "Does Daniels need a politically-appointed Ken Starr to pursue partisan witch hunts, cover up his own administration's illegal acts, or supercede the authority of locally-elected prosecutors, positions that were created under the Indiana Constitution?"

The legislator noted that Daniels also wants to create a voter identification program that would be used to intimidate seniors, minorities, and people on lower incomes from exercising their right to vote.

"At a time when Americans are dying overseas in the name of democracy, I can't believe Gov. Daniels is working to keep Hoosiers from participating in our country's electoral process," Fry noted.

"We have serious concerns that these measures would deprive the people of Indiana of their rights," Fry added. "These are not complaints drawn out of thin air. They are the result of worries expressed to us by the people we represent in our districts back home. Those concerns were serious enough that House Democrats had to stop the process and do what we could to keep the governor and the House majority from trampling all over the rights of Hoosiers.

"By insulting the honor of Hoosier men and women who gave their lives overseas, Gov. Daniels has proven he is the worst kind of partisan hack," Fry said. "He should apologize, but he won't, which means Gov. Daniels has abandoned any claim to serve as the moral leader for this state."